

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

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In re:	:	Chapter 11
	:	
FRANCESCA'S HOLDINGS CORPORATION,	:	Case No. 20-13076 ()
	:	
Debtor.	:	
	:	
Tax I.D. No. 20-8874704	:	

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In re:	:	Chapter 11
	:	
FRANCESCA'S LLC,	:	Case No. 20-13077 ()
	:	
Debtor.	:	
	:	
Tax I.D. No. 27-3892500	:	

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In re:	:	Chapter 11
	:	
FRANCESCA'S COLLECTIONS, INC.,	:	Case No. 20-13078 ()
	:	
Debtor.	:	
	:	
Tax I.D. No. 76-0604665	:	

-----X

In re:	:	Chapter 11
	:	
FRANCESCA'S SERVICES CORPORATION,	:	Case No. 20-13079 ()
	:	
Debtor.	:	
	:	
Tax I.D. No. 37-1745988	:	

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**DEBTORS' MOTION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER
DIRECTING JOINT ADMINISTRATION OF CHAPTER 11 CASES**

Francesca's Holdings Corporation ("**FHC**") and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the "**Debtors**")¹ respectfully request entry of an order directing joint administration of their chapter 11 cases for procedural purposes only and granting related relief. In support of this motion, the Debtors rely on and incorporate by reference *Andrew Clarke's Declaration in Support of the Debtors' Chapter 11 Petitions and First Day Pleadings* (the "**Clarke Declaration**"), filed concurrently with this motion.² In further support of the motion, the Debtors, by and through their undersigned proposed counsel, respectfully represent:

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

1. This Court has jurisdiction to consider this motion under 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and venue is proper under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409. This is a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b).³

BACKGROUND

2. On December 3, 2020 (the "**Petition Date**"), each of the Debtors filed a voluntary petition with this Court for relief under chapter 11 of title 11 of the United States Code, §§ 101-1532, *et seq.* (the "**Bankruptcy Code**"). The Debtors continue to manage and

¹ The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are Francesca's Holdings Corporation (4704), Francesca's LLC (2500), Francesca's Collections, Inc. (4665), and Francesca's Services Corporation (5988). The address of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 8760 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77080.

² Capitalized terms used but not defined in this motion have the meanings used in the Clarke Declaration.

³ Pursuant to rule 9013-1(f) of the Local Rules of Bankruptcy Practice and Procedure of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the District of Delaware (the "**Local Rules**"), the Debtors hereby expressly confirm their consent to the entry of a final order by this Court in connection with this motion if it is later determined that this Court, absent consent of the parties, cannot enter final orders or judgments in connection therewith consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution.

operate their business as debtors in possession under sections 1107(a) and 1108 of the Bankruptcy Code.

3. Francesca's is a specialty retailer that operates a nationwide-chain of boutiques providing a diverse assortment of apparel, jewelry, accessories, and gifts. As of December 1, 2020, the Debtors operate 558 boutiques in 45 states and the District of Columbia and also serve their customers through www.francescas.com, their e-commerce website, and their recently launched mobile app. Additional information on the Debtors' business and capital structure, as well as a description of the reasons for filing these cases, is set forth in the Clarke Declaration.

RELIEF REQUESTED

4. By this motion, pursuant to rule 1015(b) of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "**Bankruptcy Rules**") and Local Rule 1015-1, the Debtors request entry of an order, substantially in the form attached as **Exhibit A**, directing procedural consolidation and joint administration of these chapter 11 cases.

5. In addition, the Debtors request that the caption of their chapter 11 cases in all pleadings and notices in the jointly administered cases be as follows:

IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE

	X	
In re:	:	
	:	Chapter 11
FRANCESCA'S HOLDINGS CORPORATION,	:	
<i>et al.</i> ¹	:	Case No. 20-13076 ()
	:	
Debtors.	:	Jointly Administered
	X	

¹ The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are Francesca's Holdings Corporation (4704), Francesca's LLC (2500),

Francesca's Collections, Inc. (4665), and Francesca's Services Corporation (5988). The address of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 8760 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77080.

6. The Debtors also seek waiver of the requirements of section 342(c)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 1005 and 2002(n) that the case caption on pleadings and notices in these cases contain the name, tax identification number, and address of each Debtor and any names used by each Debtor in the previous eight years. As an alternative to including this information in each caption, the Debtors propose to include the following footnote to each pleading filed and notice mailed by the Debtors, listing the Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and the last four digits of their tax identification numbers along with the address of the Debtors' corporate headquarters:

The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are Francesca's Holdings Corporation (4704), Francesca's LLC (2500), Francesca's Collections, Inc. (4665), and Francesca's Services Corporation (5988). The address of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 8760 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77080.

7. The Debtors also request that the Court make a separate docket entry in each of the Debtors' chapter 11 cases (except that of FHC), substantially similar to the following:

An order has been entered in this case consolidating this case with the case of Francesca's Holdings Corporation (Case No. 20-13076 (___)) for procedural purposes only and providing for its joint administration in accordance with the terms thereof. The docket in Case No. 20-13076 (___) should be consulted for all matters affecting this case.

BASIS FOR RELIEF REQUESTED

8. Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b) provides, in relevant part, that "[i]f . . . two or more petitions are pending in the same court by or against . . . a debtor and an affiliate, the court may order a joint administration of the estates." Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1015(b). The Debtors are "affiliates" of each other as that term is defined in section 101(2) of the Bankruptcy Code, as

FHC directly or indirectly owns 100% of the stock or membership interests in the other three Debtors. Further, the Debtors comprise a single business unit with highly integrated operations that rely on an interconnected network of suppliers, vendors, and customers. This Court thus is authorized to consolidate the Debtors' cases for procedural purposes.

9. Local Rule 1015-1 provides additional authority for the Court to order joint administration of these chapter 11 cases:

An order of joint administration may be entered, without notice and an opportunity for hearing, upon the filing of a motion for joint administration pursuant to Fed. R. Bankr. P. 1015, supported by an affidavit, declaration or verification, which establishes that the joint administration of two or more cases pending in the Court under title 11 is warranted and will ease the administrative burden for the Court and the parties. An order of joint administration entered in accordance with this Local Rule may be reconsidered upon motion of any party in interest at any time. An order of joint administration under this Local Rule is for procedural purposes only and shall not cause a "substantive" consolidation of the respective debtors' estates.

Del. Bankr. L.R. 1015-1.

10. The Clarke Declaration establishes that joint administration of the Debtors' cases is warranted because it will ease the administrative burden on the Court and all parties in interest. Joint administration of the Debtors' cases will eliminate the need for duplicate pleadings, notices, and orders in each of the respective dockets and will save the Court, the Debtors, and other parties in interest substantial time and expense when preparing and filing such documents. Further, joint administration will protect parties in interest by ensuring that they will be apprised of the various motions filed with the Court with respect to each of the Debtors' cases. Therefore, joint administration of the Debtors' cases is appropriate under Bankruptcy Rule 1015(b) and Local Rule 1015-1.

11. Joint administration will not adversely affect the Debtors' respective constituencies because this motion seeks only administrative, not substantive consolidation of the Debtors' estates. Parties in interest will not be harmed by the relief requested; instead, parties in interest will benefit from the cost reductions associated with the joint administration of these chapter 11 cases. Accordingly, the Debtors submit that the joint administration of these chapter 11 cases is in the best interests of their estates, their creditors, and all other parties in interest.

12. Finally, the Debtors submit that use of the simplified caption, without reference to the Debtors' full tax identification numbers, addresses, and previous names, will eliminate cumbersome and confusing procedures and ensure uniformity of pleading identification. Other case-specific information will be listed in the petitions for the respective Debtors and such petitions are publicly available and will be provided by the Debtors upon request. Therefore, the Debtors submit the policies behind the requirements of section 342(c)(1) of the Bankruptcy Code and Bankruptcy Rules 1005 and 2002(n) have been fully satisfied.

13. Courts in this District have routinely granted relief similar to the relief requested in several other cases involving multiple related debtors.⁴ For these reasons, the Debtors submit that the relief requested is necessary and appropriate, is in the best interest of their respective estates and creditors, and should be granted in all respects.

⁴ See, e.g., *In re Rubio's Rests., Inc.*, Case No. 20-12688 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 27, 2020) (D.I. 49); *In re Mallinckrodt plc*, Case No. 20-12522 (JTD) (Bankr. D. Del. Oct. 14, 2020) (D.I. 210); *In re Ursa Piceance Holdings LLC*, Case No. 20-12065 (BLS) (Bankr. D. Del. Sept. 3, 2020) (D.I. 41); *In re Brooks Bros. Grp., Inc.*, Case No. 20-11785 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. July 10, 2020) (D.I. 105); *In re VIVUS, Inc.*, Case No. 20-11779 (LSS) (Bankr. D. Del. July 10, 2020) (D.I. 57); *In re Lucky Brand Dungarees, LLC*, Case No. 20-11768 (CSS) (Bankr. D. Del. July 6, 2020) (D.I. 76); *In re NorthEast Gas Generation, LLC*, Case No. 20-11597 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. June 19, 2020) (D.I. 25); *In re 24 Hour Fitness Worldwide, Inc.*, Case No. 20-11558 (KBO) (Bankr. D. Del. June 15, 2020) (D.I. 90); *In re The Hertz Corp.*, Case No. 20-11218 (MFW) (Bankr. D. Del. May 27, 2020) (D.I. 182).

NOTICE

14. The Debtors will provide notice of this motion by facsimile, e-mail, overnight delivery, or hand delivery to: (i) the Office of the United States Trustee for the District of Delaware; (ii) the holders of the 30 largest unsecured claims against the Debtors on a consolidated basis; (iii) all agents under the Debtors' prepetition debt instruments; (iv) counsel to the agents under the Debtors' prepetition debt instruments; (v) the Internal Revenue Service; (vi) the Securities and Exchange Commission; and (vii) any other party entitled to receive notice pursuant to Local Rule 9013-1(m). Following the hearing, a copy of this motion and any order entered with respect to it will be served on the foregoing parties and all parties having filed requests for notice in these chapter 11 cases. A copy of this motion is also available on the Debtors' case website at <https://cases.stretto.com/francescas>.

15. As this motion is seeking "first day" relief, notice of this motion and any order entered hereon will be served on all parties required by Local Rule 9013-1(m). Due to the urgency of the relief requested, the Debtors submit that no other or further notice is necessary.

NO PRIOR MOTION

16. The Debtors have not made any prior motion for the relief sought in this motion to this Court or any other.

[Remainder of page intentionally left blank.]

WHEREFORE, the Debtors respectfully request entry of an order granting the relief requested in its entirety and any other relief as is just and proper.

Dated: December 3, 2020
Wilmington, Delaware

/s/ Jason M. Madron

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*Proposed Attorneys for the
Debtors and Debtors in Possession*

Exhibit A

Proposed Order

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE**

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In re:	:	Chapter 11
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Debtor.	:	
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Tax I.D. No. 20-8874704	:	

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Debtor.	:	
	:	
Tax I.D. No. 76-0604665	:	

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In re:	:	Chapter 11
	:	
FRANCESCA'S SERVICES CORPORATION,	:	Case No. 20-13079 ()
	:	
Debtor.	:	
	:	
Tax I.D. No. 37-1745988	:	

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**ORDER DIRECTING JOINT
ADMINISTRATION OF CHAPTER 11 CASES**

Upon the motion (the “**Motion**”)¹ of Francesca’s Holdings Corporation (“**FHC**”) and its affiliated debtors and debtors in possession (collectively, the “**Debtors**”)² for entry of an order (this “**Order**”) directing the Debtors’ chapter 11 cases to be jointly administered for procedural purposes only and granting related relief, all as more fully set forth in the Motion; and due and sufficient notice of the Motion having been provided under the particular circumstances, and it appearing that no other or further notice need be provided; and the Court having jurisdiction to consider the Motion and the relief requested therein in accordance with 28 U.S.C. §§ 157 and 1334 and the *Amended Standing Order of Reference* from the United States District Court for the District of Delaware dated as of February 29, 2012; and consideration of the Motion and the relief requested therein being a core proceeding under 28 U.S.C. § 157(b)(2); and this Court’s entry of a final order being consistent with Article III of the United States Constitution; and venue being proper before this Court under 28 U.S.C. §§ 1408 and 1409; and a hearing having been held to consider the relief requested in the Motion (the “**Hearing**”); and upon the Clarke Declaration and the record of the Hearing; and the Court having found and determined the relief requested in the Motion is in the best interests of the Debtors, their estates and creditors, and any parties in interest; and the legal and factual bases set forth in the Motion and at the Hearing having established just cause for the relief granted herein; and after due deliberation thereon and sufficient cause appearing therefor, it is **HEREBY ORDERED THAT:**

1. The Motion is **GRANTED** as set forth herein.

¹ Capitalized terms used but not defined in this Order have the meanings used in the Motion.

² The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor’s federal tax identification number, are Francesca’s Holdings Corporation (4704), Francesca’s LLC (2500), Francesca’s Collections, Inc. (4665), and Francesca’s Services Corporation (5988). The address of the Debtors’ corporate headquarters is 8760 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77080.

2. Each of the above-captioned chapter 11 cases of the Debtors are consolidated for procedural purposes only and shall be jointly administered by the Court under Case No. 20-13076 ().

3. Nothing contained in the Motion or this Order is to be deemed or construed as directing or otherwise effecting a substantive consolidation of these chapter 11 cases.

4. The caption of the jointly administered cases shall read as follows:

**IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT
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	:	
In re:	:	Chapter 11
	:	
FRANCESCA'S HOLDINGS CORPORATION,	:	Case No. 20-13076 ()
<i>et al.</i> ¹	:	
	:	Jointly Administered
Debtors.	:	
	x	

¹ The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are Francesca's Holdings Corporation (4704), Francesca's LLC (2500), Francesca's Collections, Inc. (4665), and Francesca's Services Corporation (5988). The address of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 8760 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77080.

5. All pleadings and notices shall be captioned as indicated in the preceding decretal paragraph, and all original docket entries shall be made in the case of Francesca's Holdings Corporation, Case No. 20-13076 (____).

6. A docket entry shall be made in each of the Debtors' cases (except that of Francesca's Holdings Corporation) substantially similar to the following:

An order has been entered in this case consolidating this case with the case of Francesca's Holdings Corporation (Case No. 20-13076 (____)) for procedural purposes only and providing for its joint administration in accordance with the terms thereof. The docket in

Case No. 20-13076 (____) should be consulted for all matters affecting this case.

7. The Debtors are directed to include the following footnote to each pleading they file and notice they mail in these cases, listing the Debtors in these chapter 11 cases and the last four numbers of their tax identification numbers along with the address of the Debtors' corporate headquarters only:

The Debtors in these cases, along with the last four digits of each Debtor's federal tax identification number, are Francesca's Holdings Corporation (4704), Francesca's LLC (2500), Francesca's Collections, Inc. (4665), and Francesca's Services Corporation (5988). The address of the Debtors' corporate headquarters is 8760 Clay Road, Houston, Texas 77080.

8. The terms and conditions of this Order are immediately effective and enforceable upon its entry.

9. The Debtors are authorized and empowered to take all actions necessary or appropriate to implement the relief granted in this Order.

10. This Court retains jurisdiction over all matters arising from or related to the implementation or interpretation of this Order.